July 1913

that native art too exquisite to be lost on the road to civilization. Practical instruction in domestic science is given not only in the class room. In the up-to-date steam laundry, the sixth new building, as in the kitchens and in all the varied departments of the school housekeeping, I saw the children industriously at work, learning through doing. I was at Sitka during vacation, and there were but seventeen children at the school, who were allowed to remain for one or another exceptional reason. Even then it seemed a very busy place. What it must be when school is in session I can only imagine!

The shop, or industrial building, old and shabby, yet containing new and adequate machinery, is the only one of the former group of buildings still standing.

SHELDON JACKSON SCHOOL

From top to bottom: 1. Large Boys' Building. (Erected by "Home Mission Sitka Builders.") 2. Richard Allen Memorial. 3. Large Girls' Building. (Erected by North Pacific Board.)

Here, in spite of the handicap of cramped quarters, the boys are taught carpentry, boat building, wood carving, blacksmithing, electrical and machine work. At the Sheldon Jackson School, as in many of our institutions at home, I found that the manual and industrial departments, with their self-evident practical value, aroused the greatest interest.

Until one remembers the inheritance and native environment of the average Alaskan child, it is almost impossible to realize how difficult he finds the simplest intellectual effort. I was much surprised to find that the highest and also the smallest class at the school corresponded to our sixth grammar grade. In that class were young men and women of twenty and over—the majority of course younger. As soon as the pupils are ready for more advanced work there will be the full eight grades. This past year the seventh grade was added.

The children come from all sorts of homes. I was especially interested in one of them, a poor, neglected little girl of twelve or thirteen who was sent to the school a year ago this spring by one of our missionaries. A tag was attached to her dress giving her

"ONE OF THE HAPPIEST OF THE GROUP OF GIRLS"

name and destination, for she could not speak a word of English. Not only the neighbors, but her own mother had called her a witch. She was crippled, thin, starved, more like a hunted, frightened animal than a little human being. She so terrified the children, many of whom believed her to be a witch, that some of them could hardly be induced to sleep in the same room with her. A few weeks under the loving, thoughtful care of matron and teachers wrought a wonderful transformation, not only in the child herself, but in the attitude of the children who had so feared her. When I saw her last August she was growing plump and strong and was one of the happiest of the group of girls who were spending their vacation at the school.

Although even a year spent in our school may make an indelible impression upon a child's life, a much longer time is required if the boys and girls are to become strong, intelligent, Christian men and women. Because of existing Alaskan conditions, these years should not be broken by a vacation spent away from school influences. The children either return to their homes, which are often utterly unworthy the name, or else work in the canneries, at many of which the life is indescribable. The school stands for character building, yet long months of faithful, constructive work may be undone by a vacation spent, of necessity, amid demoralizing surroundings which cause overthrow and wreck. It is a splendid step in advance that the school is now to be in session the year round.

Careful thought and earnest effort have been expended in the endeavor to make the equipment of the Sheldon Jackson School a standard of excellence. It is our one school in Alaska, and within its walls our educational work is concentrated. The school aims to give to these boys and girls, sent thither from far and near, an education that will enable them to become self-supporting, Christian men and women, equipped not only to meet the temptations, tasks and problems awaiting them, but by example and precept to help their own people to better and higher living.

In the Shop

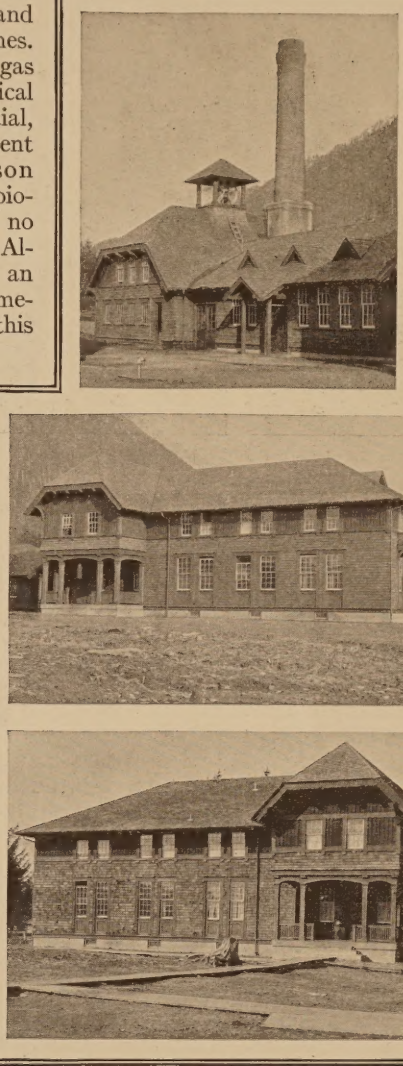
THE ALASKAN NATIVE AS A MECHANIC

By Herbert B. Fenn

Director of the Mechanical and Electrical Department, Sheldon Jackson School

A FEW years ago the canoe and the sail boat were the only native means of transportation in Southeastern Alaska. To-day every Alaskan who can afford one has his own gasoline engine power boat. It would naturally follow that these people, as a whole, have been brought into touch, closer than ever before, with things mechanical, through the medium of the gasoline engine. As a result, the occupation of engineer on the larger "gasboats" is open to the Alaskan native. But he must

prove himself reliable and competent to care for and operate gasoline engines. To be a successful gas engineer, a mechanical training is most essential, and in this department the Sheldon Jackson School is doing much pioneer work, for there is no other place where the Alaskan native can gain an insight into things mechanical as he can in this school.



SHELDON JACKSON SCHOOL

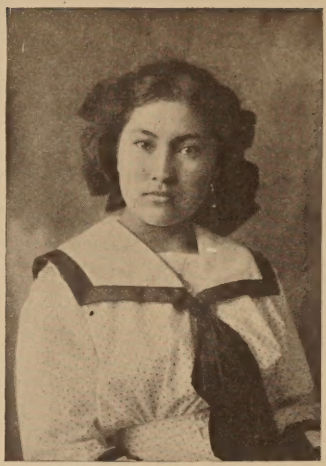
1. Laundry and Heating Plant. 2. Small Boys' Building. (Thomas Fraser Memorial.) 3. Small Girls' Building. (Caroline Stevenson Memorial.)

In our machine shop, blacksmith shop, and steam plant, the fundamental principles are being taught. Are Alaskans capable of becoming mechanics such as we know in the States? This cannot be answered positively as yet; but, judging from their skill in boat building, carpentry, native carving, and gold and silver smithing, they show latent power, and if they choose to develop this they will, at least, be assured a foothold in the mechanical occupations of Alaska.

In our shop-work considerable time is spent on gasoline engines. At present two are being overhauled and repaired, one a one and a half horsepower, and the other an eighteen horsepower, three cylinder engine. In addition to this, we are building a four horsepower engine. The boys are making working drawings of the various parts, and studying their construction. Then, in the shop, they do the mechanical work necessary for finishing these parts. When the engine is completed they will be instructed in its care and operation, and in testing it to determine its horsepower and fuel consumption.

With the training that is assured him, the Alaskan native will be able to compete with the average white mechanic, providing he overcomes some inherent characteristics. The life in school must counteract his natural lack of "stick-to-it-iveness" by its demands for the best. Habits of order and punctuality must be acquired here in the formative period of his life. He must also realize that he is but on the threshold of mechanical trades, and even though he may know much it will be necessary for him to assume the role of pupil for many years yet. The Alaskan must recognize that his children need to be educated up to the standard of our average school boy in the States before they can be of any value as mechanics. The future for the Alaskan is promising; opportunities are within his reach; just so far as he proves himself capable of assimilating and applying his mechanical knowledge—so far will his standing in the "domain of things mechanical" be assured.

WE should consider the missionaries as our bretbren, representing us and doing our work for us, just as in the time of war the loyal citizen feels that every soldier at the front is his soldier. —*Missionary Herald, London.*



A PUPIL IN THE SHELDON JACKSON SCHOOL

The first picture is taken in native garb such as is no longer worn. The second shows the same girl wearing her first handiwork, a dress which she, herself, has cut, fitted, and made in the school. She is painstaking and conscientious, and a joy to her teachers.

Prospects for the Future

By E. G. Bridgham
Superintendent of the Sheldon Jackson School

BEFORE looking forward, it is necessary to take a look backward and see what the school has done in the past. In traveling over Southeastern Alaska, I find that the best element among the natives is largely represented by former pupils of this school and of the other schools founded and maintained by the Woman's Board. The schools used to take pupils at ten or twelve years of age and indenture them for six, eight, or ten years. When the Sheldon Jackson School was opened, it was thought by those connected with the institution, that the time had come when a change could be made. It was thought that there could be a school year of eight or nine months with a summer vacation of three months and that the pupils could be allowed to go home to work in the canneries and elsewhere. This plan was tried last year and was found not to work satisfactorily. Our girls meet the worst kind of Japs and whites at the canneries, and both girls and boys come straggling in from the first of September to the middle of November. It was advertised that the school would open on the first of September, but this meant nothing to them. They came to school as soon as they felt like it, or when the "spirit moved them." Life is not a very serious matter with them. Therefore it seems best to go back to the old plan of indenturing pupils when they enter the school. Already this has been done with some, and will be with others as soon as we can get in touch with the parents. The natives travel about so much that it is about as hard to find parents as it is to find clams' tails.

As far as we can see now, this plan of indenturing pupils will be better for both the pupils and the school. If a boy enters at the age of twelve years, and works in the carpenter shop for five years without a break he will go out at the age of seventeen a good carpenter. In the meantime he will be able to do a great deal of repairing about the buildings which we would otherwise have to hire a carpenter to do. The same will be true of a boy who wishes to be a blacksmith, a machinist, or fireman. The boys and girls who have been with us since the school opened are far ahead of those who went out last summer. Many of the girls who stayed with us can now almost be trusted to prepare a whole dinner after the manner of the white people. As for the moral side, one summer at the cannery will undo a whole year's training at the school. The moral sense of the native is generally not very keen.

The native girls marry as soon as they

More About the Sheldon Jackson School Seine Boat

Since fishing is the foremost industry of the Alaskan Indians, to these families boats are not luxuries but necessities. Most of the boys and girls who come to Sheldon Jackson School must earn all or a part of their tuition. Literally rivers of fish have been caught and canned that Alaskan boys and girls might attend Sheldon Jackson.

Knowing the close connection between the economic life of the Indian and his boat, the idea was conceived at Sheldon Jackson School to build a seine boat at the school, both for the experience the building of it would give the boys and for the income it would yield.

In the fall of 1936 the boys began sawing lumber for this seine boat. Plans were drawn and the construction superintended by Peter Simpson, a native, the pupils doing a large part of the labor. When the boat was launched, of the six who made up the seining crew, three were Sheldon Jackson School boys, and one of these was the engineer.

This boat called the S.J.S., in addition to its fishing expeditions, will be used to transport Sheldon Jackson School boys and girls to and from the campus, delegates to and from the summer conferences, and the basketball and gospel teams to their destinations.

Keep — contains article on Sheldon Jackson Sch

The ALASKAN

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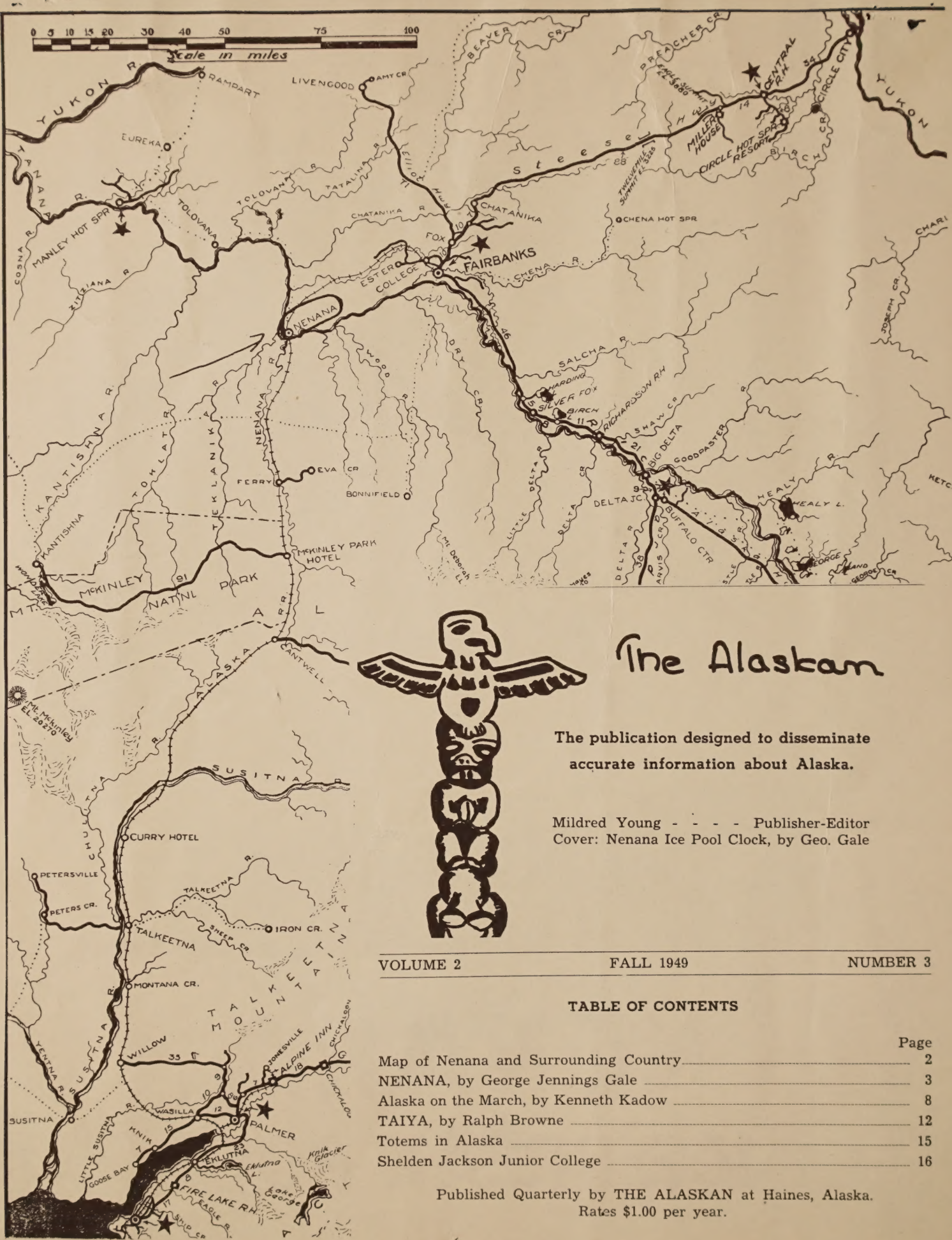
Page 16 — Sheldon Jackson Sch

NENANA
ICE-BREAK POOL



The Alaskan

The publication designed to disseminate accurate information about Alaska.

Mildred Young - - - - Publisher-Editor
Cover: Nenana Ice Pool Clock, by Geo. Gale

VOLUME 2 FALL 1949 NUMBER 3

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SEA LIONS

KODIAK

BEAR TRACKS

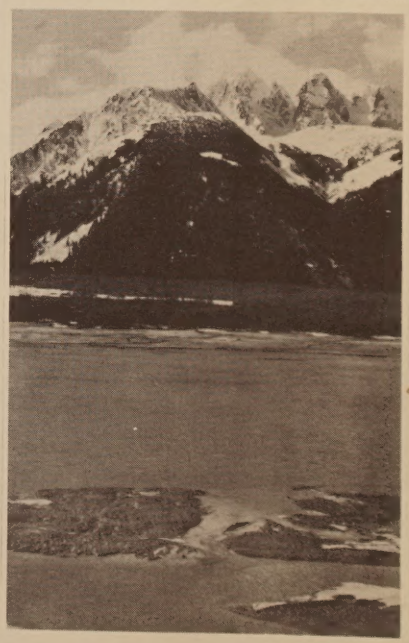
CARIBOU

ALIBUT CAUGHT AT HAINES

PETERSBURG

AKUTAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY

WHITEPASS & YUKON RAILROAD
CARCROSS DEPOT- CANADA



THE CATHEDRALS

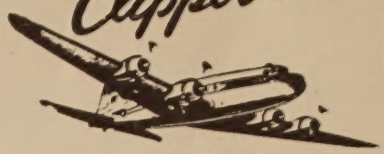
STANDARD OIL
Service Station
GAS — OIL — TIRES
Tourist Information
Eric Oslund, Prop.

THE DALTON TRAIL—a route that attracted much attention during the year 1898, named in honour of Jack Dalton, one of the best known explorers in Alaska. It left Lynn Canal at Pyramid Habour, followed up the Chilkat River to the junction of the Kluhenee River, which it followed to its source, then kept to the west of Lake Arkel, and struck the Yukon River at Fort Selkirk, five miles below the Pelley River. The route required a portage of about 350 miles, had an easy grade most of the way, though it had an altitude of about four thousand feet.

The above picture was taken in 1898 while Jack Dalton was taking 300 head of cattle to the Interior.

TOTEMS LOCATED IN ALASKA

Fly by Clipper to...



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PICTURES BY
L. A. MORGAN

SHELDON JACKSON JUNIOR COLLEGE

owned and operated by the Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

Sheldon Jackson School, a Presbyterian Mission School in Sitka, started on April 17, 1878, under the direction of Rev. John G. Brady, afterwards Governor of Alaska, and Miss Fannie Kellogg, who later became Mrs. S. Hall Young. However, the continuous work of the school dates from April 5, 1880, when the school, which had been suspended a number of times, was reopened by Miss Olinda Austin.

Classes were first held in the guard house, but later in that year the school was moved to the old hospital building. To this place came seven Indian boys, asking to be allowed to live at the school because the drinking and carousing in their homes prevented their studying there. Upon the promise of the boys to provide for themselves, Miss Austin gave them permission take up their quarters in one of the government buildings, thus inaugurating the boarding department of the school. Each boy brought with him a blanket and a bit of tin for a looking glass.

A year later, Miss Austin's father, Rev. A. E. Austin, having become associated with her in the work, started a boarding department for girls, with Mrs. Austin as matron. When the old government building burned to the ground in 1882, an appeal made to the Board of Home Missions resulted in the Women's Executive Committee assuming responsibility for a new building. A three-story structure, measuring fifty by one hundred feet was erected.

When Mrs. McFarland and her Wrangell School were transferred to Sitka in 1894, "The Sitka Training School" was adopted as the name of the institution. The school building in use at that time, besides others added from time to time, served the institution with its varying problems until 1911 when the present plant was erected. With the new buildings the name was changed once again, this time to Sheldon Jackson School, in order to perpetuate the name and memory of the great missionary pioneer who brought protestant missions and modern education to Alaska.

Classes conducted, when the work started, were by necessity of an elementary nature. Then as the school grew, higher grades were added until the program included a four-year high school from which the first class graduated in 1921. Within recent years the emphasis of the work has shifted from the grammar grades to the high school. At present time, all of the program below the first year of high school has been eliminated and two years of college have been added. It is expected that in future years Sheldon Jackson will become a full four-year Christian college serving alert young people in the State of Alaska.

Bible training and knowledge of the Christian life have always been emphasized. Christianity has been accepted and spread throughout the Southeastern section of Alaska as well as to many remotely situated communities by the young people who have gone out from the school.

Today the institution stands as a living monument to Sheldon Jackson, to the Board which erected the present buildings, to the thousands who have made the work possible, and to workers who through 71 years of service have upheld and continually sought to raise the standards of Sheldon Jackson School.

Today Sheldon Jackson Junior College, still building with the materials at hand, holds a promise of a future four-year Christian college for Alaska. As the first step in this direction, the school has begun to serve all Alaskan youth, not just the Indian population as in times past. The idea of non-segregation in education is gradually being accepted by the Territory. As a boarding school of secondary and

junior college grade, Sheldon Jackson is one of the leaders in this movement. One of the outstanding students this year has been a young Japanese-American who was in a relocation center during the war. He graduated in May with a very high scholastic and citizenship record. There are three former Sheldon Jackson students now serving in the Territorial Legislature. One, an Eskimo from the far north, is an ordained minister in the Presbytery of the Yukon.

The Grand Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, meeting in convention at Sitka in the fall of 1948, elected Mr. Cyrus Peck, one of their students, as the new Grand President. Mr. Peck, who was a lay worker in this Presbytery for several years, is now a special student in preparation for entering San Francisco Theological Seminary. The office to which he has been elected, is one of authority and influence and has long been held in high regard. In 1912 a small group of students and alumni with vision and concern organized the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood under the sponsorship of Sheldon Jackson School, the purpose being to unite the native tribes and to promote their advancement in education and culture. These charter members built the work of the early years on strong spiritual foundations, a fact that has held the Brotherhood together through many difficulties in its long history. There are nineteen camps with a membership approaching two thousand. The members of these organizations, familiarly known as the "ANB" and "ANS," are in the forefront of every important movement for the native and the development of their interests in the Territory. They are working with the Territorial Legislators and the Delegate for Alaska in Washington on such important issues as the conservation of fisheries and forests, the problems of labor, and the whole matter or aboriginal rights. In giving Mr. Peck this high office, his pepole look to him to provide a positive Christian leadership that will harmonize all factions within the Brotherhood, and to work fearlessly for the best interests of the Indian and Eskimo people.

One of the highlights of the ANB convention week was the number of former students who spoke in chapel. Each in his own way expressed the hope that those now in school would join the Brotherhood in fighting Alaska's great enemies — liquor and tuberculosis. They were of one opinion that the time had come when Alaska must have native professional leaders. The young people were urged to consider seriously their responsibility for training to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, and ministers of the gospel. It was a most timely and moving appeal from one generation to another.

As this article is written, extensive repairs are underway on the Sheldon Jackson Museum, a high point of interest for many visitors to Sitka. The work on the Museum recalls a dramatic story of faith and determination associated with Dr. Sheldon Jackson in Alaska. In 1895, Mr. William Wells was commissioned to gather materials for this building. Mr. Wells, for many years an Indian elder in the Sitka Church, had worked with the indefatigable Dr. Jackson in all parts of the Territory helping him to solve many difficult problems of practical Christian service. For example, they had to find a method of safely lightering the Siberian reindeer ashore at Nome in the early days when reindeer herding as a means of livelihood was first

Main Classroom Building

introduced to the people of Alaska. But the Sitka project presented a difficult problem. Mr. Wells was told to get a team of horses and a wagon and haul two big piles of sand and gravel to the building site. With these unpromising materials, Dr. Jackson declared his intention of constructing a building. This colorful story goes on to tell how the native people came day after day, some to wonder and some to scoff, that they let handfuls of sand run through their fingers. To all their doubts and questions Mr. Wells' answer was always the same. He didn't know any better than they how a building could ever be made of such stuff, but he had never seen Dr. Jackson fail in anything he had undertaken to do. In due time concrete was mixed and poured, and a substantial building rose on its foundations—the first one of its kind in all Alaska. Such was the pioneering spirit of which Sheldon Jackson School was born.

Following is "A Day in the Sitka Mission School" taken from "The North Star," written in March 1890 by Edward Marsden, a pupil in the Mission School at Sitka.

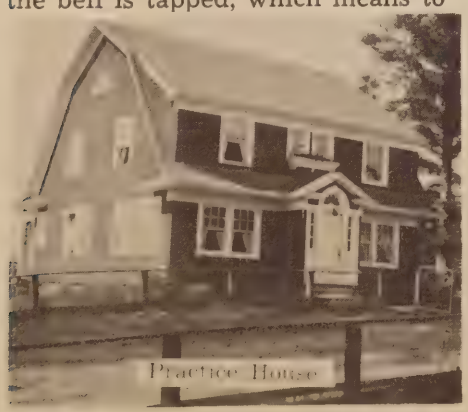
A Day in the Sitka Mission School

All are sound asleep when the rising bell rings at six o'clock, a.m., which wakes all the teachers and pupils. While the lamps are lighted by the Sergeants, "Get Up" sounds from the boys' dormitories. Some who are industrious delight to welcome the rising bell, while others

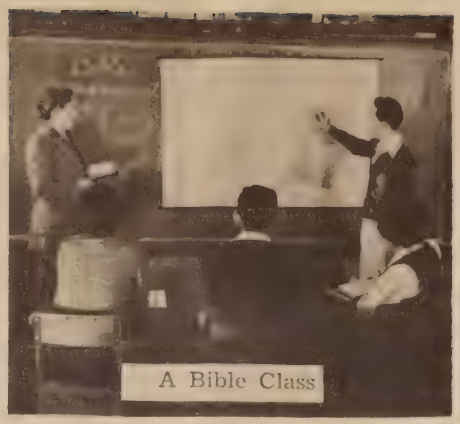
who are very much acquainted with sleep complain that the bell rings too early; but Sergeants threaten such ones that they will make them stay in bed a whole day without anything to eat. After dressing, the washroom is opened and the boys wash their faces and comb their hair. The girls in the other building hasten themselves that they may be ready for breakfast, while the Superintendent and teachers also have trouble with their dresses, faces and hair.

Before the rising bell rings, Miss Rankin, who is in charge of the cooking department, wakes her assistants at half-past four or five o'clock. The boys "fall in line" on the playground, and all march in order, occupying not more than three minutes of time. A boy who is one minute late loses his meal. The squad is commanded by the Sergeants and marches into the dining room, keeping step to the sound and time of music. The girls also march in, each one to her seat. A little bell tapped by the Superintendent of the room seats all. After a blessing is asked the bell is tapped again, when the flying waiters pass the dishes — one waiter for each table.

When the food is distributed the bell is tapped once more and a hundred and fifty mouths work with a will. The Superintendent walks around to see if they are all well helped. When breakfast is through a portion of the Scriptures is read folowed by a prayer; then the bell is tapped, which means to



Practice House



A Bible Class

rise; second to turn; and third to march.

The waiters now take their breakfast. The teachers in their dining room are through fifteen minutes later.

The forenoon work boys dress in their work clothes, while forenoon school boys (one-half of the pupils attend school in the forenoon, the others in the afternoon) are attired in their school clothes. The girls are also divided into two forces—work and school.

At 7:15 o'clock the big bell gives three strokes and the boys fall in line. Mr. Kelly calls the roll, assigns the forenoon boys to work and excuses the forenoon boys until school time. The carpenter boys under the charge of Mr. J. A. Shields, and the shoemakers under Mr. A. T. Simpson, laundry boys and girls under Mrs. Simpson, dormitory and clothes room boys under the assistant matron, Miss Ida M. Rodgers; (Mrs. I. J. Austin is our motherly matron) baker, kitchen, and dining room boys and girls under Miss Rankin. Boys who chop and saw wood, care for the school rooms, mend and repair damages, do chores and run errands, are all under the principal's direction.

Miss Anna R. Kelsey, the kind and respected matron of the girls, assigns them to their work and school at the same time as the boys' roll-call. Some to the sewing room under Miss Brady; some to the laundry and some to the kitchen.

Morning roll-call lasts not more than ten minutes. When all are at work the Superintendent goes around to see if all are at their places and do their duty.

In connection with the institution are girls' ward of the hospital is within a few paces of the other buildings. This department is under the care of a surgeon, Dr. Arnold of the U. S. Navy. The patients are nursed by Miss Overend, who takes great pains as if they were her own daughters. The sick boys who are in one of the rooms of the boy's building, are attended by Miss Rodgers, who treats them with the utmost care.

When the clock strikes 8:45 a.m., the bell gives fifteen strokes. Forenoon school boys fall in line and march to their school rooms, No. 1, and No. 2. Miss Carrie Delph is in charge of No. 1, and Mrs. DeVore of No. 2. The latter is far the most

A Chemistry Student

advanced, and the former for the beginners. In both school rooms exercises commence by reading the Scriptures, followed by a silent prayer; after which the ordinary lessons are given.

The fifth bell at 11:45 excused the boys and girls from their tasks. Dirty hands and faces are washed and clothes are changed from work to school. All are now waiting for the bell to peal five times, for the empty stomach is grinding nothing, and the restless tongues are complaining, "What's the matter?," "Why don't the bell ring?," "Oh, I'm so hungry." The twenty, minus

Sheldon Jackson Junior College—

five, minutes seem to be twenty-five times long to the fond-of-biting-a-big-slice-of-bread boys.

Now the bell taps five times at 12 and there is a tumult as if a revolution in the United States had occurred. "Fall in line," shouts the Sergeant. "Atttention. Right face. Mark time. Forward march." The boys now march into the dining room. The girls also march in. The teachers have their dinners when the boys and girls are dismissed. After dinner today the organist and singers took their posts around the organ learning the song "As Tommy Was Walking One Fine Summer Day." Some are playing marbles; some taking a gentleman walk; some in the sitting room studying; some more advanced working questions in percentage; some the "Battle of Bull Run," etc.

The quarter-past-one bell gives fifteen loud strokes. The roll is called by the Superintendent and the school boys march to school; also the girls as usual. Work boys are assigned to their work.

During these hours of work and school the Mission is compared to the habitation of ants. Some carrying something on their backs going out; others coming in with a load; some swinging hammers, axes, etc. Others are confined learning and reciting their lessons for future use. Here comes the five o'clock bell; work all stopped; school dismissed; tools put in their proper places; workshops locked and everything in order till the next day. Supper bell sounds at 5:15. Boys fall in line as usual and march in; girls also, with smiling faces, take their seats. Teachers sip their tea after the boys and girls are through. Their ordinary prayers take place after supper in their dining room.

As soon as the boys march out, the band boys go directly to the band room to practice the rudiments of music, or to play new pieces. The band consists of twenty-one members, including the leader. The exercises last an hour and a half.

The last bell of the day, which is at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, is a call to the house of prayer. Boys and girls march in. After the roll is called, the Rev. A. E. Austin, whose hair is almost as white as his face on account of his age, steps on the platform. After singing a hymn follows the reading and explaining of the Scriptures; next, a prayer, after which all unite in singing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." Then the benediction is pronounced. In dismissing, a little bell is tapped and all march out in regular order.

At 8:30 o'clock a bugle blows for going to bed and at 8:40 a second bugle sounds for extinguishing the lights. After which the Institution is quiet as a ship without sailors, and the running of a mouse could be heard in the dormitories of the two buildings.

The watchman now has his round of duties all night.

* * *

Under the inspired leadership of Leslie Yaw, the Sheldon Jackson Junior College is an endeavor of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church. It has a thoroughly competent panel of teachers, and can be proud of its achievements in learning and character building.

The school is limited to an attendance of 150 students. Here is a school succeeding in presenting a Christian atmosphere, a genuine quality of scholarship, a basic training in citizenship and a healthy atmosphere for young people.

Chronological History of Sheldon Jackson Junior College

1817—Mission day school opened in Sitka, April 17. Closed in December.

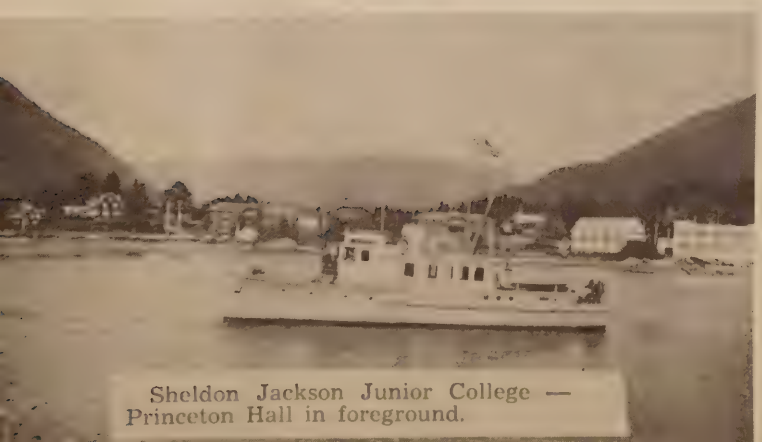
1880—School reopened in abandoned government guard house. 103 day pupils. The Lord's Prayer first lesson taught. Moved to old Russian hospital. Seven boys who begged to live at the school accepted as boarding pupils.

1882—Girls' department added. School building erected of second-hand material under direction of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, pioneer Presbyterian missionary and first U. S. Commissioner of Education for Alaska.

1886-1888—Several buildings erected, Dr. Jackson supervising. Industrial work well developed.

1910—School named "Sheldon Jackson School" after Dr. Jackson. Prior to this the school was known as "Sitka Training School.")

1911—Six new buildings erected: four dormitories; school building, industrial building.



Sheldon Jackson Junior College — Princeton Hall in foreground.

Sheldon Jackson Junior College—

1921—First class graduated from high school.

1929—Sage Memorial Shop Building erected.

1934—Recreation building erected.

1935—School accredited by Northwest Ass'n of Secondary and Higher Schools. Grades 7-12.

1938—This mission institution the outstanding school for natives in Alaska. Excellent religious, vocational and health program. Churches and local communities look to the school for leaders.

1941—War comes to Alaska. School begins friendly cooperation with armed services—building of small boats, use of gymnasium, print shop, machine shop, and other facilities.

1943—Superintendent of school is Moderator of the Presbytery. School boat, SJS II used for evangelistic purposes, is built by students to replace SJS, requisitioned by government in 1941.

Sept. 7, 1943—Junior College classes started.

1945—Official name of school now Sheldon Jackson Junior College.

1946—First Junior College graduate.

1947—(Fall) Seventh grade dropped.

1949—(Fall) Eighth grade dropped.

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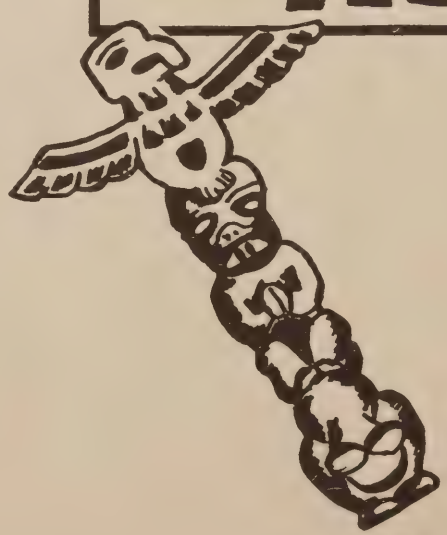

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SHELDON JACKSON JUNIOR COLLEGE

VOL. XLIII No. 2 SITKA, ALASKA APRIL 1957

WHAT BECOMES OF SJJC STUDENTS? HERE'S PART ANSWER

Any occasion which calls to mind students of former years is always a pleasure. This Alumni edition of the VERSTOVIAN is not large enough to include notes about all the seventy who have attended Sheldon Jackson Junior College since its organization.

Out of the seventy enrollees, 23 finished the two-year course and graduated. Of these 23, four have gone on to college and obtained their bachelor's degrees; and one of these four has earned a master's degree. Of these four, two have returned and been a part of the Sheldon Jackson staff. John Borbridge of the class of '47 is in his second year here as coach and instructor in physical education. He obtained his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan and has done one summer session toward his master's at the U. of Washington. Catherine Holder '50, graduated from Mankato State Teacher's College in Minnesota with a major in art. She returned to SJ and taught arts and crafts for two years. Then she went to San Anselmo and obtained a master's degree in Christian Education. She is now at Tuscon Indian Training School where she is director of Christian Education. Mark Davis of the class of '48 took his bachelor's degree at Whitworth and his theological training for the ministry in Portland. Adelinda Wompkon '50, finished her college work at the College of Emporia with a major in education. She now teaches in Fairbanks.

Here is a story of success. The four pictured above, after supper at SJ for Presbytery and Presbyterial, are of the class of 1942. Three of the group have been ordained elders during the year — Mrs. Deloris Jensen, center back; Mrs. Mildred Bergeron, left; Mrs. Isabel Brady, right. Mrs. Jensen is also president of the Presbyterian Women of Ketchikan.

Mrs. Dorothy Dundas, center front, is treasurer for the Metlakatla Presbyterian Women's Association.

Marie Carlson and Albert Nelson, class '52, both took further business training at Mt. Edgecumbe Vocational School and have held positions under the Civil Service ever since. Lou Ann Johnson '52, is also working under Civil Service in the Interior of Alaska.

After a term in service, Dennis Demmert '53, is now at the University of Chicago. David Barnes '55, is a senior at the University of Syracuse, New York.

Others of the seventy who did not graduate here but who did college work in the states include Edward Warren, who finished his term in the army medical corps, entered a medical technical school in Chicago, and graduated. He now is a technician in a Chicago hospital and is active in the Indian organizations of Chicago. The Indian Service

Continued on page two - -

The President's Memo -

To the Alumni: - You are part of the story of Sheldon Jackson. The past has been made glorious through your contribution of work and devotion to the school. You have a new work to do. Schools all over America are organizing the alumni. Through journals and news sheets the former students are brought together. How can we do it at SJ? May I suggest a very simple beginning? We need your help in building a mailing list of all old students. If you know anyone who attended SJ for a day, a week, or ten years, we need his name. We will first of all place it on THE VERSTOVIAN list. Will you sit down today and drop us a line giving the name of the student and the address? It will help, if the former student has been married, to also give the maiden name.

To our Alaska Friends: - We would not have you forget our needs on the Student Union Building. We are to raise these funds in the Territory. Gifts of any size will help swell the growing amount we already have on hand. Before the next issue we should have a sketch of this proposed building and some additional literature. Make a gift from your business of a plus-gift to the cause of the school.

For the Future: - We need your support in sending college students our way. The program is building and the enrollment must keep up with our time schedule. To make room for college students we are limiting enrollment to 30 high school freshmen. Other grades will be open for additional applicants. Talk up the college possibilities at Sheldon Jackson.

A Closing Thought: - Our loving Lord is very close to us as we come to the end of this school year. Many young people have a clearer vision of their place in life and in His Kingdom. We hope that He is close to you, too.

R. Rolland Armstrong

WHAT BECOMES OF ESS-JAYS?

- - from page one

has chosen Chicago as the center for industrial training of Indians transplanted from overcrowded reservations. There is much need for understanding help and guidance. Edward is demonstrating competent Christian citizenship.

Henry Fawcett attended Whitworth College two years, then came back to Sheldon Jackson as dorm supervisor, starting as "pop" to Fraser Hall, and then following his fellows to HMH for one year. He is now finishing his junior year at Whitworth.

Another Jay Cee student, Nina Cook, is a junior in the University of Washington. She works on the business staff of the Seattle Times and attends classes as she can fit them into the busy schedule of a working girl.

Other Jay Cee students who have done college work in the States include Martha Sam '46, who took one year at Presbyterian - related Jamestown College at Jamestown, North Dakota, and Alice Moy '49, who had one semester at Jamestown College. Veteran John Neal '51, after one semester here, entered the University of Washington. Frances Nannouck '53, took one year of pre-nursing here and then transferred to the U. of Washington for a term. Marie Johnson '51, after a year here at SJ took a business course in Seattle then took a position in Juneau.

Minnie Larsen '56, Irene Benson '48, Gilbert Booth '55, also attended Whitworth. Allayne Nelson '57, after one year here, is finishing her second college year at Whitworth now. Percy Hope '53, after a second battle with T. B. entered a technical school in

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Sitka, Alaska

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SJ alumna part of international fellowship group

Last fall a Sheldon Jackson alumna had the unique experience of traveling in Alaska and the Orient as a part of the Women's Fellowship team, representing women of India, the United States, Japan, the Phillipines, and Alaska. This group did not go to preach or to teach, but as Christian women to share fellowship with the women of other countries.

The person chosen to represent the women of Alaska, Mrs. Roger (Ellen Hope) Lang, is not only a graduate of Sheldon Jackson herself, but the wife of a graduate, and the daughter of alumnus Andrew Hope.

Ready to leave for the Interior and the Orient, Mrs. Lang bids farewell to her family.

Now, after having shared her experience with the Rotary Club, the Soroptimists, Woman's Club, Presbyterian Women of Sitka and Presbyterian church and Sunday school, evaluating the total experience she feels that perhaps two impressions stand out beyond all others. For one thing, she was deeply impressed by what she saw in Korea — the obvious need for material things, yet the desire to get along with what there was, rather than ask for aid. The missionaries in Korea, she said, have been working with the Koreans, helping them to work out their own problems, not directing their work as outsiders.

The other idea that made a particularly strong impression is that the people of other countries are really

Continued on page eight --

Former students on Advisory Board

The work at Sheldon Jackson is very much a part of the life of Isabel Sing Brady, for she has had an opportunity to see it from 3 angles — as student, staff member, and now as advisory staff member.

As a student here, she feels now that the chief value was in the chance for a good upbringing under Miss Sidebotham's direction. Although she didn't appreciate it at the time, the habit of going to church begun at S.J., she feels, has meant much in her life. She appreciates particularly the interest of one of the staff members, Louise Miley (now Mrs. Ralph Weeks of Spenard, Alaska), took in her. For it was because of her influence that during a Spiritual - Emphasis week with Rev. Walter Soboleff as speaker that she decided to accept Christ for her own life. Ever since, the Lord has been directing her life, making opportunities possible, she feels.

In 1948, when she was ready to graduate from Jamestown College, (North Dakota), her Bible instructor advised her to accept the position of supervisor of Stevenson Hall at Sheldon Jackson. She did.

The girls who were in the dormitory then, and their Christian fellowship, are still close to her now, and though she feels that some seem to have lost the meaning of those years since then, she feels that through prayer there will be a reawakening.

Now, as Mrs. William Brady, she and her husband (they have 3 children) are very active in the church. She is an elder, has taught in the Sunday school, and as vice-president of the Presbyterian Women's Organization, has taken over the president's duties.

This is Mrs. Brady's third year as a member of the Sheldon Jackson advisory board. Along with the other members, she is concerned with the over-all picture — the tuition, the building program, the school program, recreation.

Thinking of her own growing interest and development as well as the fellowship through working with Presby-

Continued on next page

Introducing the Soboleffs

Two of the Sheldon Jackson graduates who attended Presbytery in Sitka recently were Dr. and Mrs. Walter A. Soboleff of Juneau.

Mrs. Soboleff (Genevieve Ross) was born in Howkan, Alaska. She came to Sheldon Jackson in the fall of 1929 as a freshman in high school. After completing high school Genevieve went to Ganado Mission in Arizona where for three years she took nurse's training and received her R.N. degree. After her training, and then working there one year, she came back to Sheldon Jackson to become the staff nurse. However, like most staff members, she did quite a variety of jobs.

After an absence of many years from S. J. she was quite impressed with several new buildings which she had not seen before, and also the plans for new ones.

Genevieve is writing the story of her life as a young Haida girl growing up in the old and new civilizations. Every chapter is fascinating as she tells of many historic and factual customs, superstitions, traditions and the culture of her people. The book also covers her years at Sheldon Jackson and romance and marriage to Walter Soboleff. One fond memory of S.J. is of the boys singing "Sweet Genevieve" to the tune of "Sweet Jenny Lee" from the boys' balcony. Her book is near completion now.

Walter, as he is commonly called, was born in Killisnoo. Before coming to Sheldon Jackson he was a member of the Russian Orthodox church and spent a year in the Russian school located in Sitka. Because of death in the family, he came to S.J. and soon came to know and love the Christ whom the missionaries talked about. He graduated in 1928 from Sheldon Jackson, after which he went on to college at Dubuque, Iowa, and completed seminary training. He has also been a member of the staff of S.J., as fireman, painter, and doer of many other jobs. Walter was an outstanding track and basketball star both at SJ and Dubuque. Incidentally, their grade records both were excellent.

He and Genevieve were married June 1, 1938. They then went back to Dubuque for him to complete his seminary training. In 1940 Walter took his first pastorate at Memorial Presbyterian Church in Juneau, where he has been ever since. Beginning with a congregation of three little girls, Genevieve (who played the piano), and himself, he has built the church up to around 200 members.

Walter has been Moderator of Alaska and also the Synod of Washington. He is presently a chaplain in the National Guard, and active in many community and charitable affairs. A long list could be made of all his accomplishments, but he is a humble servant of God and in his quiet way is a real inspiration to everyone he meets, both his own people and those of other races. He is acclaimed by many to be one of the most outstanding men of Alaska.

The Soboleffs now have four children — Janet, 14; Sasha, 12; Walter, Jr., 7; and Ross, 5. Their home is a warm and friendly center where those of many colors, clans, and creeds come to enjoy the joy, hospitality, laughter, and spiritual warmth that always abides there. And as Walter has said many times, "All praises must go to God in Christ." ●

STUDENTS CN ADVISORY BCARD

from page three

terian Women, she would advise young women to take an interest in women's work of the church.

And, thinking of her own education, "So many of us who are alive have forgotten, or have taken for granted, the advantage we had of going to school at Sheldon Jackson. It was the only school open to Natives at that time, and had we not been able to come to Sheldon Jackson, we would not have been able to get an education. We should show our appreciation to the school and remember and write to the staff members who were here."

Those who know Isabel Brady are grateful that there was a Sheldon Jackson to nurture the body, mind and spirit of this person and of others who could not otherwise have had an education. ●

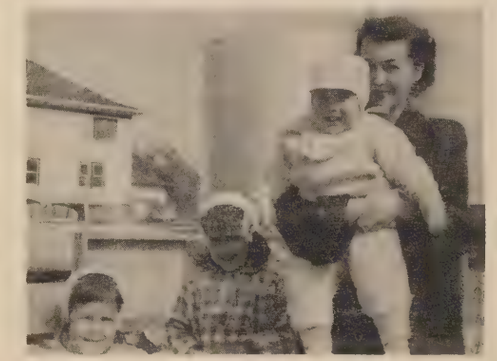
Former Students view SJ from the other side

Much of the life of John and Emma (Nicolet) Borbridge has been associated with school. It was while they were students at Sheldon Jackson that they met. Emma was enrolled in the high school and John was one of two students graduating in the second junior-college class. At that time he became used to small classes. (Sometimes he was the only one taking advanced mathematics courses.)

Recalling those years, Emma says that the deepest impressions are of the Christmas season, such a happy time on the campus and one in which the spiritual significance was emphasized.

After their marriage John stayed out of school for two years before enrolling in college in Missouri where he got much of his athletic training.

Following up an interest in law, John, Emma, and baby Sandra moved to Ann Arbor, where John continued his education at the University of Michigan. A daughter, Linda, and a son, John Edward, were born during their stay in Ann Arbor.



Now back at Sheldon Jackson as director of athletics, John finds his lifelong hobby of athletics being put to use in coaching a junior college basketball team, a varsity team, a junior-varsity team, and a freshman basketball team. In addition, he has had this year, physical education classes for all girls and boys, tumbling, track, and any other athletic activities that can be squeezed in.

Coach Borbridge helping Lewis Aiken, of Barrow, practice for the spring track meet.

Two things have given him special satisfaction this year: 1) that we started travel by plane (the basketball team and cheerleaders flew to Juneau, and 2) that there is an increased interest in track, gymnastics, tumbling, and other field sports. He is also happy that additions to the gym and showers are in prospect.

Used as it is for all the teams, plus girls' basketball, plus intramural games, plus physical education we are not able to handle all these with the present facilities.

The tumbling team has put on performances at various times for basketball fans. Commenting on their work, John Borbridge said, "I believe that we have one of the best tumbling teams in the high schools of Alaska.

"We will expand our program," he added, "as soon as we receive some more physical equipment. Then track, soccer, and winter sports will receive their share of attention."

Although the Sheldon Jackson coach is quite involved in athletics, and although athletics have always been a hobby, his interest does not stop there. His family, political and philosophical questions, "just about everything" interests him. ●

CATCHING UP WITH THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

In 1921 the first class graduated from the Sheldon Jackson high school. Five of the nine graduates are living today, and what is unusual, is that all five are now living in Sitka, though they have all lived elsewhere at some time. All the graduates have married and have families, and all have been active outside of their homes.

Mrs. Lillian Cameron, nee Kennedy, came to Sheldon Jackson when she was five years old. After graduation she attended the Western Washington Teachers College. She married in Washington and lived there until the family came to Alaska to visit for two weeks. Their visit has included living in many towns, mining camps, and villages of Southeast Alaska, settling at last in Sitka. Mrs. Cameron has taken her place in helping or leading in church work and Sunday schools, Cub Scouts, the P.T.A., and First Aid instruction.

Mrs. Dora Lawrence, nee Walton, went to Juneau after graduation and took nurse's training at the Juneau hospital under the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and received her diploma 3 years later. After a trip south, she returned to Juneau, considering the possibility of going north to work, but met and married John Lawrence. After her children were all in school, Mrs. Lawrence returned to nursing, first in Juneau, and then in the Sitka area, and is now a nurse at the Pioneer Home.

Mrs. Jessie Weir Price attended Oregon State College for two years and returned to teach domestic arts at Sheldon Jackson. Three years later she married Frank Price. After her husband's death twenty years later, she went to work catering for social clubs and receptions of various types. In addition, she has an active interest in church work, club work, and civic affairs; upon occasion assuming positions of leadership.

Mr. Andrew Johnson attended Park College (Missouri) after graduating from Sheldon Jackson, and trained for evangelism under the man who established Ganado Mission. His first years as an evangelist in the Southwest were not easy, as the Gospel was unwelcome. Later the people came to accept the work done by the Johnsons. They returned to Sitka, and Mr. Johnson teaches arts and crafts, and internal-combustion engines at Mt. Edgecumbe government school. Besides his work, he presents a Thlinget radio program six days a week over SKEW.

Mr. Frank Williams returned to Hoonah after graduation and engaged in fishing and cannery work. He served as acting mayor of Hoonah for several years, and after the town was incorporated, as councilman. Mr. Williams was president of the Hoonah ANB (Alaska Native Brotherhood) for some years, and is now vice-president of the Sitka ANB. Since moving to Mt. Edgecumbe, he works in the ward kitchen of the Government Hospital.

In reminiscing about life at Sheldon Jackson as it was then, the military aspect was brought out by the members of the class. Boys marched to meals to the beat of drums, and sat on the opposite side of the dining room from the girls. Boys and girls did not mix on campus. Socials were held once a month. Students were accompanied by supervisors whenever they left campus. However, Mrs. Lawrence and Mrs. Price taught Sunday school classes in the Village, and were allowed to go unsupervised. Sometimes, the older students were allowed to take the younger students for a walk.

Speaking Thlinget rated punishment. Once when a group of girls would not disclose who had spoken the forbidden word, the whole group had to wear dresses made of sacks and wear rags in their hair instead or ribbons. Others were campused to extra work.

Mr. Williams stated that his class asked that a high school course be added to the school. The petition went in to New York and was granted. Mr. Johnson received his training in art and metal jewelry at Sheldon Jackson. Some of their work still exists on the

Continued on page seven --

campus as Mr. Williams made the swing which still hangs on the porch of North Pacific Hall. From practical training received, Mrs. Cameron was able to save the lives of three people, one from burning, and two from drowning. Mrs. Price stated that though there are many changes (she thinks it would be fun to be a young student again with all the privileges of today), yet through it all, the purpose of the school and the dedication of the people behind it has remained the same, and will live on in the lives of the people of Alaska.

ALUMNI MISCELLANEY

We would like to dveote about an issue a year of the VERSTOVIAN to the alumni. If things of interest happen to you, or to some other former student of Sheldon Jackson, if you take up new work, or move, or make a fortune in fish or uranium, or if you just wish to make some comments, we would like to hear from you. Your present VERSTOVIAN editor is Helmi Harkala.

The oldest student to contact us recently is Frank St. Clair, who was at Sheldon Jackson 1898 to 1901. A resident of Hoonah, he lists his present job as "old age." Mr. St. Clair has served as a city judge, Alaska Native Brotherhood president, Salvation Army officer, and as deacon in the Presbyterian Church.

Two years after Frank St. Clair left Sheldon Jackson, George Betts, also of Hoonah, entered. He wrote, "I translated for the minister in services (when at SJ), wanted to be a missionary, and made it." He is missionary pastor in Hoonah. Besides this, he has worked at logging, mining, and fishing; as city clerk of Angoon, president of the Hoonah school board, and institutional representative of the Boy Scouts of America.

Since leaving SJ Robert Grant, also of Hoonah, has acquired a family of 4 sons and 2 daughters, the youngest 12. The present mayor of his village, and an elder of the Presbyterian church last term, he earns or has earned his living by carpentry, boat and engine repair, and as a private boat operator.

Among younger alumni is Francis Haldane who went to the Aeronautical Center, Oklahoma City, for a course in air-traffic control, meterology, and communication procedures. Married, and the father of a young daughter and son, he is Air Ways Operations Specialist with the CAA at Annette, Alaska. A year spent in Kotzebue and his marriage he lists as the two most unusual experiences during the past five years. He'd like to see the S.J. buildings painted a different color. How about you?

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM BEGUN

The summer months promise to be unusually busy on the S. J. campus. Construction has already started on three new staff houses which will be finished during the summer with the help of a group of work campers from Stateside, who will work also on the new athletic field and track.

Within the next few weeks work will start on the new Sage building, which will house the industrial arts department, and bids will be taken for the 52-student junior college dormitory and for the building which will house eight single teachers.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank St. Clair of Hoonah, retired Salvation Army officers.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

from page three

so much like us. Mothers in Japan and Korea have the same family concerns that mothers do in the United States and Alaska. Before her trip, says Ellen, the foreign field was just that — the foreign field. Now there is a new realization that we are of one household, under God.

Thinking back on her six years at Sheldon Jackson, Ellen's fondest memories are of two of the staff members, Miss Emily Sidebothan, Stevenson Hall supervisor (whom she visited in Monte Vista on her return from the Orient) and Bina Mae Cline, the home-economics teacher, now deceased.

"It was tough going," said Ellen, "for both demanded perfection. Life was democratic, but if one broke the rules, one could expect consequenses — and these were always forthcoming, regardless who the individual was."

The experience of living in Practice House for two terms, eighteen weeks, was one of the most helpful ones, she feels, for each girl had to be able to assume any responsibility of a home-maker — meal planner, cook, hostess.

Some of her Practice House training is being put to use on a commercial basis now, for Ellen is providing weekly dinners for the Rotarians and the Chamber of Commerce.

Roger, from Metlakatla, is a firing engineer at the Mt. Edgecumbe power plant. He attributes most of his training to Mr. C. G. Stewart, engineer on the campus when Roger was in school. (Mr. Stewart, who gave vocational training in power and plumbing, also instructed Roger's "boss" at Mt. Edgecumbe, Harold Donnelly, another S.J. alumnus.)

While at Sheldon Jackson both Roger and Ellen used to enjoy music — particularly the choir — and used to spend hours of their free time practicing. Roger and Ellen have one daughter, nine years old. ●

Over $9,000 has been given toward construction of the proposed Student Union Building.

WHAT BECOMES OF THEM?

from page two

Oregon. George Haldane '47, had one year at Presbyterian-related Hastings College.

Space does not permit mentioning the many more interesting activities of the Jay Cees.

Of the high school graduates of Sheldon Jackson, 21 have earned college bachelor's degrees and one, Ernest Johnson, a master's degree. Walter Soboleff has an honorary doctor's degree. Five have graduated from nursing school with the R.N. and one, Dr. Fred Swanson, has an M.D.

Of the twenty-three junior college graduates, 16 are now married and 14 are living in Alaska. Colleen O'Brien is living in Seattle, and Mark Davis in Portland. Of the 70 who have attended SJJC, only 12 are living in the States. This does not count the boys who are in the armed services now whose legal residence is Alaska.

PRESBYTERY-PRESBYTERIAL DELEGATES GUESTS AT S J

Representatives to the Alaska Presbytery, which met at the Presbyterian Church of Sitka March 18-April 2, were guests at Sheldon Jackson for one meal. (Most of the other meals were provided and served by the five circles of Presbyterian Women.)

Former Sheldon Jackson students who were present were Mrs. Dorothy Gordon Dundas and Mrs. Alma Nelson Hayward, of Metlakatla; Mrs. Ben (Mary Borbridge) Lanting, of Wrangell; Mrs. A. E. Widmark, Evelyn I. Johnson, and Rev. Arthur A. Johnson, of Klawock; David Phillips and Mrs. David (Julia Joe) Hall, of Petersburg; Mrs. William (Isabella Sing) Brady, of Mt. Edgecumbe; Mildred Thomas Bergeron, Charles and Nancy Edenso Nelson, of Ketchikan; Dolly Demmert Jensen, of Craig; John and Emma Nicolet Borbridge, of Sheldon Jackson; Helen James Skeek, of Kake; Lilly Brown Fawcett, of Hoonah; Cecelia Donnelly Klanott and Dick Hatch, of Klukwan; Lois Douglas Burgess, of Hydaburg; and Mrs. Betty George and John B. Williams of Yakutat.

SJJC — 4/65
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Campus Amid the Totems

Sheldon Jackson Junior College

Sheldon Jackson Junior College

By Pres. R. Rolland Armstrong, D.D., Princeton Seminary 1936.

The year was 1868. The Russians had gone, bag and baggage, leaving the wonderful territory of Alaska which they had sold to the United States.

Ten years before, Sheldon Jackson was graduated from Princeton Seminary. He struck out for the great open spaces of the West. When he reached Alaska he was impressed by the need of youth for Christian education. Seven pupils formed the first student body in an old military guard house left by the Russians.

This primitive beginning ultimately became the Sheldon Jackson Junior College at Sitka with its two hundred students, a lovely campus of 354 acres with its background of towering mountains and its frontage on Crescent Bay. From where do they come — this wonderful group of youngsters that make up the Sheldon Jackson family? Some of them like Maryann are Eskimos from the great barren snow covered lands to the far north.

"What did you think of when you saw your first tree?" I asked Maryann. "I walked up to the tree and touched it," she said. "You see in my country there are no trees, only bushes and grasses that grow up in the short hot summers and die down with the first frost of Autumn. The tallest object I ever saw was a radio antenna that whipped in the Arctic storms. Our communication with the outside world is by airplanes that land on a metal strip to keep the planes from sinking out of sight when the ground thaws."

Jerry Gresham, the English teacher from Atlanta, Georgia, who is now our High School principal, was constantly amazed by the international character of the student body. "It is wonderful that we can work together as brothers here without ever saying a word about brotherhood." "Icherow, what brought you from Japan to Sheldon Jackson?"

"I came after writing letters for two years," said Ichi. "For a long time I saved my money by working as a truck driver eighteen hours a day. Then I worked my way to San Francisco on a freighter. Then on another boat to Seattle, and finally on a barge to Alaska."

Other students joined Jerry and Icherow, and Jerry continued to ask questions. "Josie, you came all the way from Kenya, how did you hear about this school?" "I learned about it from the American Consulate in Kenya," said Josie. "So did Crispus and Caren."

"Muheer, you and Basim came from Jordan, how in the world did you ever hear of Sheldon Jackson College?" "I was working as a guide in Bethlehem in the Holy Land and a tourist from Skagway, Alaska, told me about it."

One of the most significant occasions at Sheldon

Maryann (center) who had never seen a tree!

Molly and Etla rehearsing for the Christmas Chorus.

Jackson each year is the pre-school conference designed to get faculty members both new and old off to a good start for the new year. This time I invited Dr. Walter Soboleff as our speaker. We are proud of Dr. Soboleff as one of our outstanding graduates. Born and raised in a small village, the grandson of a Russian priest, he was evangelist-at-large for the Presbytery of Alaska, and now Chaplain of the Alaska National Guard. We counted heavily on his wise counsel.

"When you deal with the native students," he warned, "remember they have not passed completely over the cultural bridge. Their fathers and mothers still have their tribal beliefs of the past. The young Indian teenager must of necessity accept Christianity only as he sees it practiced in our own lives.

"During its eighty years this school has seen third and fourth generations come and go, and its influence has gone deep into the hearts of Alaskans, Indians, Eskimos and whites. They have scattered far and wide, and their lives are witnessing to the touch of God's spirit which came to them here as students. There is Percy serving as clerk for government schools, Andrew a former legislator, William a vigorous proponent of native rights, Arthur and Henry as pastors of churches, Corrine as a teacher, and Swanson as a doctor."

Dr. Soboleff stopped, and my mind went back to another student of Sheldon Jackson whom I had met years ago when on itinerant missionary travel in far off St. Lawrence Island. It was bitter cold. The winter darkness was deep except for a narrow shaft of yellow light from a window, the snow cracked under the mukluks because of the intense cold. "Hullo", I heard through the driving wind, "I would like to talk to you." It was Adelinda Womkon's voice. "It's so good to see you," she said.

"I had to leave college because my father is ill. I want you to have prayer with him, my mother is very worried." Several members of the family were there, they were silent at the entrance of a stranger. The Angel of Death was approaching. "Will you lead in prayer?"

It was a new kind of altar for me with the smell of burning seal oil in the air instead of the fragrance of flowers. There was a Coleman lamp instead of candles. As the words of my prayer were translated, I prayed silently that the Holy Spirit would touch the hearts of this humble Eskimo family.

Later in a sanctuary at Fairbanks I looked and saw my Eskimo college friend. Her eyes were searching to make sure that she was recognized. "What are you doing here?" I asked with surprise. "I taught in some remote villages," she replied. "Then I married, and now I am a regular teacher in the Fairbanks school system."

Tomorrow would be Commencement Day. The school auditorium was silent as the final pageant began in the glow of candlelight. Paul stepped forward and looked at the faces of his fellow students. What he had to say was part of the pageant, but it had come to have real meaning for him:

"Let me have a heavy cross, with God's help I will carry it. Thus far I have refused Him, now I remember how heavy was the cross of Jesus on the way to Golgotha, I will not refuse to carry mine."

The students knelt in prayer. Tomorrow would be graduation. Then they would leave . . . Paul to the trolling boat at Hoonah, James to the whaling crew, Mary Jane to babysit, Georgene to work at the cannery, Steve to service airplanes, Warren to work with a surveyor.

They will join the three thousand others who have gone out from Sheldon Jackson and into the life of the world.

Who gets to bat!

Small group instruction makes for a good education.

Josie and her sister Caren along with a fellow Kenyan Cris, and students from Hong Kong, Jordan and Japan.

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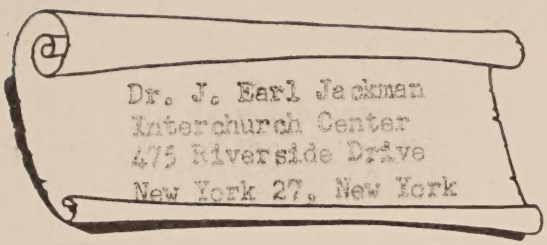

LIBRARY BUSY AS EVER

by James D. Anderson

Early this summer, the Sheldon Jackson Library placed the largest book order in it's history, almost 1000 volumes. By the first of July, boxes of books began to arrive and immediately the library staff began to process them. Miss Odessa Gray, our business education teacher, and Mrs. Sybil Laelis, a summer house mother, check the books in as they arrive, and work project volunteers from Oregon glued in book pockets and date slips. Now as assistant junior college librarian, I am busy cataloging the new books.

Each book gets anywhere from two to 20 cards in our high school and junior college catalogs. Miss Gray mimeographs these catalog cards on a small mimeograph machine and then types the subject and title headings on the tops of the cards. Last of all, she files the cards into the two catalogs. Meanwhile, Mrs. Lawlis has been busy putting numbers on the back of each book and shelving them with the rest of our growing collection by their classification "call" numbers.

The mail doesn't stop coming in the summer, and copies of our newspapers and periodicals arrive everyday. The work project group from Oregon worked hard binding back issues and helping reorganize the periodical storage area. We hope to prepare a periodical holdings list for the first time this summer.

Pamphlets on every topic have been piling up all summer. Mrs. Zelma Doig, our high school librarian, is tackling them and reorganizing our entire pamphlet, picture and map files.

From the Dean's Desk

Victor Charles - Dean

The pressures of college age students trying to get into U.S. colleges has made it necessary for many colleges to be selective concerning grades of students making application for admission. Often a student is required to have grades in the upper 10% of his class or have high scores on entrance examinations. Thus the striving for A's and B's and getting them at any cost affects thousands of college age students throughout the nation, and high grades become an end in themselves in the thinking of some students at the sacrifice of many more important attributes.

Admission requirements at Sheldon Jackson Junior College are quite simple. A high school diploma, three references and financial arrangements to carry one through a year, are all that is required. Help is given through scholarships, loans and the unique work program, which enables a student to earn a good share of his college expenses. As a junior wishing to transfer to another college or university, it is necessary to have a "C" average. Perhaps it would be well to de-emphasize grades at SJJC.

Because our purpose is to take the student where we find him and help him develop to the maximum standards attainable, we can emphasize qualities other than high grades. Would it not be far better to have "average" grades in subject matter, but emphasize and specialize being above average in character, moral values, citizenship, attitudes and manners? SJJC has the opportunity and would certainly find an increased emphasis on these qualities consistent with its stated aims . . . Competent Christian Citizenship.

The Spire

With this issue we are sending you The Spire, courtesy of the publisher, Princeton Theological Seminary. Two articles bring intimate glimpses of educational work with a Christian emphasis - one at Sheldon Jackson Junior College, the other at the Iran Mission. Each issue of The Spire brings articles of interest and information connected with the advancement of the gospel throughout the world. If you would like to receive future copies, they will be sent to you without charge if you will complete the form on the back page.

News Items

Executive Director of Minnesota's United Church Committee on Indian Work is the title of the new position to which the Rev. Raymond G. Baines has been appointed. Sheldon Jackson is proud to report the advancement of former students and is especially grateful for one who has carried out so well its aims and aspirations.

Sheldon Jackson has been notified of the death of Sheldon Jackson Brady. He was the son of Rev. John G. Brady, first Superintendent of the Institution. Word was received from his sister, Mary Beattie Brady, of New York. Memorial gifts of $575 have been turned over to the school. Hugh Brady, brother of Sheldon Jackson Brady, will visit the Sitka campus on Alaska Day, October 18, as a special guest of the Advisory Committee. He will speak on "The Early Days in Sitka."

On June 13, William Gilbert Beattie received a Doctor of Humanities from Lewis and Clark College of Portland. After leaving Sitka he became a professor at the University of Oregon. He is the author of the book "Marsden of Alaska." Professor Beattie was Superintendent from 1905 - 1911.

The college enrollment is beyond all expectations. To date in excess of 75 have been accepted with projections running to the one hundred mark by the opening of school on September 20. Part-time students in day and night classes will swell this number.

THE SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM has received a grant of $2,100 from the Board of National Missions in response to an emergency call from Dr. Erna Gunther, of the University of Washington.

For years it was known that a species of beetle was infesting the collection. It was thought to be dormant until it was again discovered ravishing the world famous Indian and Eskimo relics.

Professional exterminators who work on such projects will be brought to Sitka to deal with the problem. Donations are expected from many sources to supplement the National Missions grant.

Miss Mary Shields of New York City, is 1965 Museum hostess. This is her third year in this volunteer post. She reports that tourist traffic in a six week period has increased the door count to 1,800. This promises to be the Museum's busiest.

Construction Advances

Tom Horton and crew get set to drive the first piling for the new Dormitory.

$200,000 will develop three projects on the campus. $60,000 will be repaid to the Board of National Missions from student rentals and $45,000 will be raised by the Advisory Committee against an advance of $90,000 for the Cafeteria. The Cafeteria is part of the 50 million capital funds campaign of the United Presbyterian Church.

Thomas Horton has six men on the project. Site preparation is completed and footings are being poured for the dormitory. Cafeteria layout studies are being completed. Glen Carson and Charles Marshall of the Division of Property indicate that the dining room will serve 200 plus 40 staff members.

Buildings being painted by Synod of Oregon Workers. Thousands of dollars are saved each summer by volunteer help through the church.

Sheldon Jackson's President is to be a speaker at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Anchorage. The program is sponsored by the Anchorage Soroptimist Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Tribute will be paid to the mayors past and present of Alaska's largest city.

Dr. Armstrong has known seventeen of the twenty-three mayors.